

## Do you Know Where the Water in Your Storm Drain Goes? To Your Local River or Stream...



Even though you live miles from a river or stream, you may be polluting it without knowing it.

Before you pour anything into the gutter or down the drain, stop and think! Storm drains go directly into channels and creeks, rivers and streams.

### ***Did You Know...***

... that one pint of motor oil can produce an oil slick of approximately one acre on the surface of water?

...that dumping anything in the storm drain system is illegal and harmful to the environment?

### ***How Does Storm Drain System Work?***

Unlike the sewer system, which carries water from your indoor drains to wastewater treatment plants, the storm drain system releases untreated water into channels, streams and rivers. To insure the safety and enjoyment of our environment, everyone's help is needed to keep the storm drain system free from harmful pollutants.

### ***COMMON STORM DRAIN POLLUTANTS:***

**HOME MAINTENANCE**

- Detergents, Cleaners and Solvents
- Oil and Latex Paint
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Outdoor Trash and Litter

**LAWN AND GARDEN**

- Pet and Animal Waste
- Pesticides, Insecticides, and Herbicides
- Clippings, Leaves and Soil
- Fertilizer

**AUTOMOBILE**

- Oil and Grease
- Radiator Fluids and Antifreeze
- Cleaning Chemicals
- Brake Pad Dust

***Things You Can Do To Protect The Water In Your Storm Drain System*****HOUSEHOLD**

Some household products, such as cleaners, insect spray and weed killers, can cause pollution if allowed to drain into a storm drain. Buy household products labeled “nontoxic” whenever possible. Clean up spills with an absorbent material such as kitty litter and check with your disposal carrier or a hazardous waste collection center for disposal recommendations.

**PAINT AND SOLVENTS**

Clean water-based paints from rollers, pans and brushes in sinks that go into the sanitary sewer system. Use paint thinner to remove oil-based paint from brushes and rollers, then take used thinner and left over paint to a household hazardous waste collection center, or keep the paint for touch ups, or give it to a friend.

**AUTOMOTIVE**

Keep your autos in good repair and watch for possible leaks. Take leftover or used fluids to your household hazardous waste collection center. Clean up leaks and spills with an absorbent material such as kitty litter and check with your disposal carrier or a household hazardous waste collection center for disposal recommendations.

**SWIMMING POOL AND SPA**

Water containing chlorine is harmful to aquatic life. Whenever possible, drain water into the sewer system. There are established guidelines on the amount of residual chlorine, acceptable pH range, coloration, filter media and acid cleaning wastes when draining into the storm drain system, and some areas may require a permit. Check with the Village for a copy of the guidelines.

**LAWN AND GARDEN**

Use a broom or rake to clean up yard debris and place in trash bins; lawn clippings and leaves should be placed in recycling containers if available - or better yet, leave your grass clippings on the lawn. Follow directions carefully

when using pesticides and fertilizers; don't over water or use before a rain. Pesticides and fertilizers may adversely impact our waterways.

### ***TRASH***

Place trash and litter that cannot be recycled or reused in trash cans, and recycle the products that you can. Whenever possible, turn trash into useful products and buy recycled products. Remember: Reduce - Reuse - Recycle.

### ***PET CARE***

Pick up pet waste as soon as possible and put it in the trash. Pet waste has harmful bacteria that can get into our waterways. Also, follow label directions for disposal on pet care products like flea shampoo because they can be toxic.

(Source: Orange County, California)